(c) whether the guilty are likely to be punished for spreading prejudice and inequality due to an illness; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to ensure that such an incident is not repeated anywhere else in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Two HIV positive children had to be withdrawn from a school in Kerala.

(b) The State Government tried to sensitize the local population to persuade the parents to let other children attend the school alongwith the HIV positive children. However, when the opposition of the parents threatened the continuation of the school itself, the State Government issued orders that a school would be started at the residence of the children, and they would be educated at home by willing teachers. This arrangement is continuing. The State Government did not seek the Centre's intervention.

(c) No punishable offence has been committed.

(d) The Government proposes to accelerate the awareness generation and advocacy efforts to sensitize opinion leaders, elected representatives and general public on the need to treat HIV positive people with compassion.

Zonal Advisory Committees for National Programmes on Disability

4606. SHRI B.J. PANDA :
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rehabilitation Council of India propose to constitute seven Zonal Advisory Committees under the stewardship of NGOs to strengthen the reach of its National Programmes on Disability across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to constitute committees of experts in each zone to achieve the objectives; and

(d) if so, whether the experts would serve in voluntary capacity or otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Rehabilitation

Council of India has constituted seven Zonal Advisory Committees to provide opportunity to regional institutions working in disability related areas to develop awareness of the role and activities of the Council and ensuring rapid progress in the development of Rehabilitation Council of India approved courses in each region.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of minorities in J and K

4607. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to formulate a comprehensive plan for the educational and economic development of minorities in Jammu and Kashmir,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Any scheme formulated by the Ministry is for the entire country and not for a specific State. A number of schemes are being implemented by this Ministry, by Maulana Azad Educational Foundation, and also by Ministry of Human Resource Development for educational development of minorities. The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, a PSU established for economic development of weaker sections amongst the minorities under the control of this Ministry, is also implementing its schemes of financial assistance to minorities at subsidized rate of interest. All these schemes of educational and economic development of minorities are being implemented all over India including Jammu and Kashmir.

Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers

4608. SHRINANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme had been launched in the country under National Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers for training and their rehabilitation in alternative occupations;